

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-12 OMB-01 ERDA-05 /077 W
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O 071137Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO CNO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1990
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
COMSIXTHFLT NAPLES IT
JCS WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 07430

CORRECTED COPY - ORIG TRANSMISSION WAS INCOMPLETE MSG.

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, MARR, SP
SUBJECT: NPW VISITS TO SPAIN

REF: (A) CINCUSNAVEUR 061008Z OCT 77, (B) CINCUSNAVEUR
061233Z OCT 77, (C) CINCUSNAVEUR 301333Z AUG 77,
(D) MADRID 6337 (DTG 261549Z AUG 77)

1. REFTELS A AND B, WHICH SET IN TRAIN A REQUEST FOR
VISITS BY THE USS SOUTH CAROLINA TO PALMA BETWEEN 12 AND
15 DECEMBER, AND BY THE USS NIMITZ AND CALIFORNIA TO ROTA
BETWEEN 11 AND 14 DECEMBER, RAISE THE QUESTION OF WHAT
TACTICS BEST TO USE IN FURTHER APPROACHES TO THE SPANISH
GOVERNMENT ON THE USE OF SPANISH COMMERCIAL PORTS IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN FOR NPW VISITS.

2. THE AMBASSADOR REVIEWED THIS SUBJECT IN SOME DETAIL
WITH SPANISH DEFENSE MINISTER GUTIERREZ MELLADO ON
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AUGUST 25 (REF D), AT WHICH TIME GUTIERREZ UNDERLINED
THAT THE WHOLE NPW VISIT QUESTION HAS BEEN MADE MORE
DIFFICULT FOR THE SPANJFZVB #343.

3. MORE RECENTLY, DURING THE MEETING OF THE US-SPANISH
COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 30, FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA DIRECTLY
ADDRESSED THE NPW QUESTION, TERMING IT ONE OF PARTICULAR

CONCERN FOR THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS ENVISAGED WITH SPANISH PUBLIC OPINION. HE SAID THESE PROBLEMS WERE MAGNIFIED BY THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW FREELY-ELECTED PARLIAMENT THIS SUMMER. HE FEARED THAT THE "GREAT UNPOPULARITY" OF SUCH VISITS MIGHT AFFECT SPANISH PUBLIC OPINION ON THE ENTIRE RANGE OF SPANISH-US COOPERATION AND THAT THIS WAS THEREFORE A MATTER REQUIRING CLOSE AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. REGARDING SPECIFIC PORTS, HE SAID THAT VISITS TO ROTA DID NOT PRESENT A PROBLEM BUT VISITS TO PALMA DID. (THE REFERENCE TO PALMA SEEMED BY EXTENSION TO APPLY TO ALL COMMERCIAL PORTS.)

4. IN ALL CANDOR, THE PROSPECTS FOR GAINING APPROVAL FOR THE USS SOUTH CAROLINA TO VISIT PALMA IN DECEMBER ARE NOW DIM, EVEN IF THIS VISIT WOULD BE OUTSIDE THE PEAK CHRISTMAS TOURIST SEASON AND ROUGHLY SIMULTANEOUS WITH THE VISIT OF THE NIMITZ AND CALIFORNIA TO ROTA, AS THE AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED WITH ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY ON SEPTEMBER 9.

5. IT WOULD PERHAPS SOMEWHAT ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR A VISIT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN THIS YEAR IF WE COULD OFFER OTHER PORTS IN ADDITION TO PALMA, SHOULD PALMA BE TURNED DOWN. WE MIGHT INDICATE AS A FIRST ALTERNATIVE, ONLY AFTER PALMA IS DENIED, BARCELONA
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(ALSO UNLIKELY OF APPROVAL) AND AS A SECOND ALTERNATIVE CARTAGENA. WE FULLY RECOGNIZE THAT CARTAGENA IS NOT AN IDEAL PORT FOR THIS KIND OF VISIT BUT AT THIS JUNCTURE IT APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY SPANISH COMMERCIAL PORT WHICH STANDS ANY CHANCE OF GOS APPROVAL FOR A NPW VISIT THIS YEAR. THE REALITY IS THAT EVEN THIS IS ONLY A SLIM HOPE.

6. INFORMATION AS TO WHAT KIND OF CONVENTIONAL SHIP OR SHIPS WOULD ACCOMPANY THE USS SOUTH CAROLINA INTO PORT WILL ALSO BE NEEDED.

7. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE CNO'S THINKING ON THIS QUICKLY SO THAT THE AMBASSADOR MIGHT SEE GUTIERREZ-MELLADO AGAIN IN TIME TO ALLOW A FORMAL REQUEST FOR A VISIT TO BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST 60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE VISIT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SPANISH DESIRES. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, MILITARY VISITS, NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID07430
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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